Drymonema dalmatinum

Pink meanie, Stinging cauliflower (jellyfish)

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
    - Preys on A. aurita & availability of moonjellyfish may have facilitated the 2000 outbreak
    - It feeds on other gelatinous zooplankton, including native jellyfish & capable of episodic population explosions (Larson, 1987; Graham and Young, 2002)
    - Large jellyfish can clog fishing gear, the stings can deter swimmers, and in sufficient numbers, this species may be able to alter plankton dynamics by feeding on native zooplanktivorous jellyfish
    - Largest known medusa in tropical Atlantic
2. Invasive potential
    - Human assisted transport via shipping or seagoing infrastructures (towed oil or gas platforms) as vectors
    - However, transport may be due to natural ocean currents
    - One theory attributes summer of 2000 invasion in northern Gulf of Mexico to Loop Current and its spin-off eddies
3. Geographic extent
    - Locally patchy
    - Multi ecoregional
4. Management difficulty
    - Repeated outbreaks/sightings due to natural ocean currents

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Mediterranean, Europe, South America
2. Introduced: Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean

- Habitats
    - Marine, estuaries/bays
    - This is a coastal pelagic species, which can occur in at least the higher salinity portions of estuaries

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Natural spread

Non-Native Locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
4. 64- Eastern Caribbean
5. 65- Greater Antilles
6. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. “Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity.” *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment.* 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment
3. http://nas.er.usgs.gov/XIMAGESERVERX/2010/20100310111157.jpg